

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 04009 211546Z

43

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SNM-02 INR-05 L-01 IO-03 PRS-01

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R 211316Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9316

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

ZEN AMCONSUL ADANA

ZEN AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

ZEN AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE OF POPPY ISSUE

REF: ANKARA 3638

THE TURKISH PRESS IN RECENT DAYS HAS CONTINUED TO GIVE FAIRLY PROMINENT ATTENTION TO NARCOTICS-RELATED STORIES. THE HIGHLIGHTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. LIBERAL DAILY MILLIYET REPORTED MAY 18 THAT THE PRIMIN'S OFFICE IS RECEIVING HUNDREDS OF CABLES FROM FARMERS IN MALATYA ASKING WHEN THEY CAN BEGIN POPPY CULTIVATION, IN REFERENCE TO A REPORTED STATEMENT BY DEPPRIMIN NECMETTIN ERBAKAN THAT POPPY CULTIVATION WOULD BE PERMITTED IN MALATYA (REFTTEL).

B. IN A SEPARATE STORY, THE SAME PAPER QUOTED A U.S. "NARCOTICS DEPARTMENT" SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THAT A RECORD LEVEL OF OPIUM IS BEING SMUGGLED INTO THE U.S. THIS YEAR BECAUSE HIDDEN STOCKS ARE BEING RELEASED AS A RESULT OF THE RESUMPTION OF POPPY CULTIVATION IN TURKEY.

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C. ON MAY 20 MILLIYET REPORTED THAT THE OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN

PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) IS SENDING AN INVESTIGATING TEAM TO AFYON, DENIZLI AND USAK TO CHECK ON REPORTS THAT POPPIES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BECAUSED THEY WERE CULTIVATED IN A WIDER-THAN-LICENSED AREA.

D. MODERATELY-LEFTIST CUMHURIYET ON MAY 21 PUBLISHED A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE UNDER THE HEADLINE "EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE PRODUCTION OF OPIUM DERIVATIVES ARE INCREASING." THE U.S. AND THE NETHERLANDS ARE EXERTING HEAVY PRESSURE ON TURKEY TO ADOPT THE TECHNOLOGY APPLIED IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TURKISH ALKALOIDS INDUSTRY AND "INTERNATIONAL MONOPOLIES" ARE TRYING TO PREVENT TURKEY FROM BECOMING AN EXPORTER OF OPIUM DERIVATIVES, ACCORDING TO THE CUMHURIYET ACCOUNT. MEANWHILE, THE NEWSPAPER ALSO REPORTED THAT THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SECURITY HAS PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED 306 "DETECTIVES" TO THE SEVEN POPPY GROWING PROVINCES IN ORDER TO ENFORCE THE CONTROL PROGRAM.

MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: ElyME
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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